

The Virginia Teacher

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EDUCATIONAL COMMENT

WILL CHEAP BOOK POSTAGE BE PERMANENT?

A MAGAZINE weighing half a pound is carried through the U. S. mails at a cost to the publishers of 1/32 of a cent; until recently a book of the same weight cost its publishers 4 cents in postage. Such a discrepancy has always seemed hard to understand.

While the policy of subsidizing newspapers and magazines has been justified on the ground that the press is a medium of education for the masses in a democracy, it has always seemed that the same reasons would apply to the distribution of books. One explanation has been that newspaper and magazine publishers have been more vociferous than book publishers, and the oil has gone to the wheel that squeaked the loudest.

Now an executive order has been issued by President Roosevelt providing that a cheaper rate for books—1½ cents per pound, and 1½ cents minimum—be applied in the period from November 1, 1938, to June 30, 1939. During this eight-month

period studies will be made to determine the effects of cheaper book postage.

It is a boon to schools and libraries as well as to book clubs and book publishers that this cheaper rate should be in force, and its continuance should be a matter of real concern to all teachers. The magazine publishers have kept the authorities informed of their wishes; let book publishers and book readers do no less.

OFFICE OF EDUCATION RADIO SERIES

Many teachers are beginning to depend regularly on radio for classroom or outside work. One of the great needs, however, of the teacher and school administrator is reliable and *advance* information on educational radio series. Advance listings of some of the Office of Education radio series are given here:

THE WORLD IS YOURS

Every Sunday from 4:30 to 5:00 p. m. EST. Coast-to-coast, NBC Red Network with the Cooperation of the Smithsonian Institution.

PURPOSE—To dramatize significant areas of human knowledge.

APRIL 2—GEMS AND GEM LORE—Stones—treasured by men for their beauty and their power to bring good luck! Stones—precious in terms of fortunes and lives! Brothers kill each other for the Koh-i-nor diamond, which now adorns the crown of England's king, and a nineteenth century novel changes the opal from a good luck talisman to an omen of evil. Listen to stories of famous jewels and legends from gem lore.

APRIL 9—HEAD HUNTERS—Smithsonian scientists come out of the jungles of north-west South America with an argosy more thrilling than fiction. Soldiers, settlers, and missionaries have told many tales of the Jivaro Indians. This true and amazing story is told for the first time in the *World Is Yours*.

APRIL 16—TRAIL BLAZING WITH SCIENCE

—Each year a world-wide network of scientific expeditions is thrown out by the Smithsonian Institution to round up new knowledge of our earth and its inhabitants. Highlights of 1938 will be broadcast in this program.

*APRIL 23—FIRST LADIES' FASHIONS—Gowns worn by Presidents' wives, daughters, sisters, and nieces—from Martha Washington's handpainted reception gown to Mrs. Coolidge's short velvet dress—illustrate the fashion of the day. Dolly Madison's stubbornness saved her yellow brocade from British soldiers. Mary Todd Lincoln wore her pansy velvet to the Ford Theatre. Mrs. Pierce's inaugural gown—black because of the death of her son—contrasts strikingly with the white wedding dress of President Buchanan's niece. Here is the life and the gay talk and the music of the White House through generations.

*APRIL 30—NEW FRONTIERS OF PHYSICS—What discovery—by Galileo about three hundred years ago—was one of the most important achievements in the history of human thought are marked the beginning of the science of physics? How has our picture of the universe changed since then? What clew—brought to this country only a few weeks ago by a notable scientist—started a feverish activity in several physical laboratories here and may result in the most important discovery in science in this generation? Listen to the answers on this program.

*Consult your daily newspaper for change of schedule to daylight saving time.

WIT AND WISDOM

Professor Joseph Wood Krutch of Columbia University: "Too many men are becoming increasingly willing to die for too many different ideas, and the worse the idea is the more eager they seem to be to die for it. In the publications of the Modern Language Association...I have never come across an idea which I, or I think

anyone else, would want to die for; and that, under the circumstances, seems to be decidedly a point in its favor...As I see it, the Modern Language Association...does not aim to do anything to anybody. Its only object is the accumulation of useless knowledge, and of useless knowledge at least one thing may be said—it never did anyone any harm."

Dr. Frederick G. Keyes, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology: "The great state universities will be cited as examples of politically supported institutions. But does anyone suppose that they would stand at their present level, in serious activities, were it not for the example, performance, and competition of the independent universities that still serve as models?"

SUGGESTIONS FOR READING IN EDUCATION

A SUMMARY OF CURRENT MAGAZINE
ARTICLES FOR GENERAL READERS

OUR OVERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN, by Rose Y. Anderson. *Readers Digest*, February, 1939.

One of the blights upon today's normal childhood is the abundance of privileges and advantages our children are showered with. "Give more of your own time and interest to your children's affairs." They are quick to appreciate the difference between lavish gifts and your companionship. Many children get the idea at home that physical work is degrading. From earlier years they should be given regular household tasks and made to carry them through. Of course, children should have warm clothes and proper play equipment, but the most precious experience of a child's life—the opportunity to yearn for something—should not be taken from him by giving him unasked-for gifts.

HOW CHILDREN LEARN, by Helen Bolt. *Parents' Magazine*, March, 1939.

Learning is a reciprocal relationship between child and parent. This also applies to learning with one another. Successful child training results from this "two-way learning," as it is called. We live to learn and learn to live. As long as we live, so long do we learn. A need, a situation, and a relationship built up between need and objective make up learning. Learning is based upon a satisfaction of basic needs.